THE INSANE.

THE NEW-YORK STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM. [FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Utica, N. Y., Dec. 31 .- About a mile from Utica, and on a plot of over 100 acres of ground is the principal asylum for the State of New-York. It has a front of 550 feet, with two wings at right angles each of about the same extent, and a part is four and the other three stories high. The view is magnificent. In the rear are structures in which the various industries are carried on: there are steam engines which pump water, which operate a huge fan for securing forced ventilation in every part of the Asylum-which furnishes power for the kitchen, wash room, and laundry; there are barns and shops, and in short, whatever is required for the comfort and

convenience of such a public institution. This Asylum was opened in 1843, under the superintendency of Dr. Amariah Brigham, who had been having tharge of the Insane Asylum at Hartford, Conn. Dr. Brigham must be considered one of the founders of the new system for treating the insane, founders of the new system for treating the Insane, and to his habits of thorough investigation are due the successive steps by which this system was established. To a great extent he was a self-made man, as he received little assistance from schools or instructors; still he was a diligent student; and after he entered upon the practice of medicine he was in the habit of taking to the bedside a book that he might have all the assistance possible in treating disease. Coming to Utica, he entered upon his duties with great energy; he discovered many new facts and helped establish new methods. In addition to the care of the patients he commenced the publication of The American Journal of Insanity, which is still continued, and which is of great value not only to physicians and legislators, but to all others who seek what really/constitutes a liberal education. Dr. Brigham died in 1849. His successor was Dr. N. D. Benedict, who resigned in 1854, when Dr. J. P. Gray was appointed, and he is now acting. Having visited this institution that the readers of The Tribuune might know how it is managed, and having stated to Dr. Gray this object, he expressed great willingness to show me through every department, and although he had recently been so disabled by an accident as to be obliged to use crutches, he himself conducted me through all the wards devoted to the men. Usually, visitors are shown only the convelescent wards of the two sexes, where but few evidences of insanity are apparent. The patients are neatly dressed, and the rooms correspond to parlors and parlor-bedrooms. To the wards where the excited, demented, and wretched patients are confined they will not be admitted. This general rule has been established for the reason that there are crowds of people in this world who desire simply to seek nor are they capable of receiving, instruction. Besides, to take such as apply through all the wards; also, persons of standing and intelligence, who seek to be infurious to the patients, and double the number of officers w and to his habits of thorough investigation are due successive steps by which this system was es-

money.

The males and females occupy separate wings. Di Gray said that a properly arranged asylum would have still greater separation; that instead of incloshave still greater separation; that instead of inclosing and opposite wings, the building should extend in a straight line, or better still there should be two separate buildings, each inclosed by itself, and this is not in consideration of the men alone. We entered by common-looking doors into well-lighted halls, with rooms on either side, all well furnished and kept in complete order. The ventilation is so perfect that no odor was detected. There are 12 wards for each sex, and in each ward are placed patients of like condition, which classification is of the utmost importance. Some rooms contain each one bed; other rooms have each two or more beds. Suicide is prevented by having at least two lodge in a room. Self-murder is never committed except in solitude. Of two suicidal patients each thinks that he has sufficient reason for committing the act, but that his companion has not, and they watch each other to prevent it. The first thing to ascertain regarding a new patient is whether he is inclined to garding a new patient is whether he is inclined to garding a new patient is whether he is inclined to suicide. A prominent object on entering was a fine model of a ship, made by an inmate who had been a sailor, complete in proportion and in all its details. After recovery he attempted to make another, but was unable, even after many attempts. This is one of those cases of insanity where the mind is concenwas unable, even after many attempts. This is one of those cases of insanity where the mind is concentrated upon one object, and more is accomplished than in a sane condition. Even in what is called health there are corresponding conditions. One who was in sound body came up and borrowed the doctor's crutches, and he started off through the hall with one leg doubled up, while he twisted his face and body as if he was in the most excruciating pain. One had made a knife out of a little piece of tin, with which he cut the buttons off everybody's coat, and he showed 300 of them to his friends, saying he had made so many dollars while there in speculation. Another who looked like a country justice of the Another who looked like a country justice of the peace, said: "There are two house flies on the engine which runs this establishment; he who hath ears to hear let him weep." One became insane from having had the ague, and he was in great trouble because the Government was going to war with England when many people will be killed. In a room, among a crowd of curious looking folks, was one who had ent his throat on account of trouble with his family; after being admitted he attempted to tear the wound open; but when he saw so much pains taken to heal him he became interested in himself and he forgot his troubles. When we went into another ward a man commenced immediately to take off his clothes, and he worked at all his garments at once, as though he thought he was doing us a great service; who looked like a country justice of the clothes, and he worked at all his garments at once, as though he thought he was doing us a great service; but a few words put him in another frame of mind. This is a little trick many of them undertake as though it was set down among the duties of the place. Another like character, not willing to obey, had on hand-cuffs. We saw one idiot, who, during the war had been made a volunteer, that his relations might get his bounty money.

The demented were sorrowful sights. Some showed such a relaxation of muscles that their heads bent

had on hand-curis. We saw one idiot, who, during the war had been made a volunteer, that his relations might get his bounty money.

The demented were sorrowfal sights. Some showed such a relaxation of muscles that their heads bent over like drooping plants. There are many of this class through the State, mostly in Poor Honese. Those in the excited wards were as active as kittens, and they hovered around and behind us, and, if noticed, they skipped back. There were touches on one's cost and pocket-lids, and brushes, and whisks, and flittings, but no violence was offered.

In our walks we came to a dining-room, where over 40 were seated at a table, and the order and behavior were unexceptionable. I was pointed to one man who had been chained at home, the terror of his wife and little children, and he sat at the table as quietly as any. I was pointed to another who once held an important State office, and in this position he had power to help the Asylum often, and he never refused. When the building of this Asylum was commenced it was under the direction of men who had little idea of the new treatment, and 40 strong cells were constructed in the basement. They were soon disused, and the whole range devoted to other purposes; but one cell remains unchanged. It is like a prison cell, and has a loop-hole six inches square through which he sentinel could watch the prisoner. I saw several bedsteads, or cots, made like a crate with a lid of slats, which closes down upon the patient and locks. These are for the confinement of the restless and violent, that they may sleep. During waking hours the hands of the violent are confined in a leather muff fastened at the wrists by clasps.

In entering the wards for females, we came first to the convalencent ward, where everything was exceedingly neat, and where the ladios, to a great extent, generally were well dressed, and they presented few signs of insanity. Still, they had passed as patients through the various wards, and many had arisen from the lowest depths. One said: "Now

if she will not get well some time? "No, there is no hope."

With hair turning to iron gray, a determined and grave woman walked the hall. For years she has scarcely spoken, and little seemed to be known of her case. Her brother is so rich that he has given to each of her children a vast sum. Another ward was still more violent. Some were on the verge of a great impropriety. One, muffed, and dressed in a coarse, garment, uttered such language that so far from being repeated it must be forgotten. There seemed some traces in her face of another and higher condition. The physician said she had been well educated, and that she had lived in the best society, but this disease effaces the lines of intelligence and culture; in a recovery they return. The same is to be

said of the effects of almost any other disease. There said of the effects of almost any other disease. There were some girls, perhaps recently admitted, and they were such girls as daily go to good schools, whose language was also shocking. He who has not learned that there is a time for a silent tongue and a blinded eye, has much to learn of mankind and of himself. For the thousandth time a thin, fragile, and most peaceable woman called the physician to her side, and said, (and he had previously repeated what she would say,) "I want you to take me and cut me into inch pieces and put me in the engine furnace that I may die, for I can die in no other way, nor can father." As she said this, the lines of her lips closed straight, like the lines of the mouth of a fish. As we walked away, the physician said: "In all my

closed straight, like the lines of the mouth of a fish. As we walked away, the physician said: "In all my experience I have seen no human being whose suffering equals her's." There was the wife of a minister, educated and accomplished, sunken and lost.

Then we came among the demented. One bright-looking young woman lay in her room on a clean white bed, and as we went and came she called gaily, but no attention was paid to her. She was so smart and so wicked that she made disturbance wherever she was placed. But she delighted in writing letters and dropping wicked that she made distributed wherever she was placed. She delighted in writing letters and dropping them from the window. As a last resort, she was brought among the demented, and since they would not speak to her nor could understand her, she had gone to bed, and there she lay like a lily. Crouching in corners, sitting idly and speechless, and only looking with round eyes, were these poor creatures. Two sat together and looked up with eyes so strange as to seem preferraturally bright; their com-plexien was not stained, their health seemed good, and though their garments were course and of strange as to seem preterinarianly of the place of plexion was not stained, their health seemed good, and though their garments were coarse and of a faded color, and their hair was cut short, they in some respects resembled the loved young wives of happy husbands, and who perhaps might have been mothers only once, but now, they require the care which a mother bestows. There is a general collapse and breaking down of muscles and nerves, and the coffin and graye clothes are ready.

There are in this institution about 600 patients. The number in any asylum where treatment is to be successful should not be much above 250, for then the physician can study every case. There should be asylums in other parts of the State, each for the treatment of this number. Great injury results from bringing patients a long distance, for some die upon their arrival, and others a short time afterward. The cares are only about 48 in 100 cases. But in the County of Oneida, where the Asylum is located, more than 80 in 100 cases are cured, and in some years all.

Oneida, where the Asylum is located, more than 80 in 100 cases are cured, and in some years all. This is because they have immediate care, and because the disease is not aggravated by the distractions of travel. When the distance is great, friends delay as long as possible, and every day's delay prolongs the cure. When the number in one institution is so large, classification is more difficult, details must give way to generalities, and amusement and occupation will be more or loss neglected. The attendants in the Utica Asylum appeared faithful, but there are lumits to human endeavors, and the knowledge of the chief physicians seemed to me remarkably broad and acute. The endeavors, and the knowledge of the chief physicians seemed to me remarkably broad and acute. The chief obstacles seem to lie in the great number of chronic and incurable insane. They overflow in our asylums, and they crowd our country poor-houses, where recovery is impossible, while many are among their friends. The truth is simply thus. A sufficient number of asylums best fitted to heal the insane should be established, and so located that every recent case could be treated at once, and then, and then only, will this large class of incurables cease to exist. This applies to the future, not to the vesent, and it is manifest that, if only economy is to be considered, this plan is preferable.

This Asylum needs 1,000 pictures for as many as 20 wards. Only those for convalescents are supplied.

This span is preferance.

This Asylum needs 1,000 pictures for as many as 20 wards. Only those for convalescents are supplied. Much good can be done by having pictures which will present pleasing scenes of domestic and rural life, of cities, rivers, and mountains, of the setting sun, of the moon struggling through clouds, of ships at sea, of flowers and of birds, that the mind may be called from gloomy thoughts, when nature with her marvelous skill will commence her work of cure. That cures are effected by the help of such means there is no doubt. The ladies of New-York City, of Albany, Rochester, Buffalo, and other places should organize, as was done in Philadelphia, to solicit contributions to this end, and no gentleman of their acquaintance will refuse. There are other needs. There should be portable cabinets of curiosities of various kinds. There is only one plane, and there should be as many as ten instruments, either planes, meledeous, or cabinet organs. The good which music would do can scarcely be estimated. The Legislature is not likely to make appropriations, and it islature is not likely to make appropriations, and it will depend upon the ladies of the great State of New-York that this noble charity shall not be deficient in any means which their gracious efforts can avenly

supply.

In a long conversation with Dr. Gray, the methods of cure and the causes of meanity were considered. The whole subject is new to science, and it seems surprising that it does not form a part of a medical education. The first step assumed in treating a packet, that he is capable of self-control, and that he The whole subject is new to science, and its seems surprising that it does not form a part of a medical education. The first step assumed in treating a patient is that he is capable of self-control, and that he is a responsible being. Not to do this is to abandon discipline and to be deprived of the means of securing good behavior and self-respect. It is, therefore, a constant aim to urge the cultivation of self-control, of self-respect, of respect for others, and for the proprieties of life. With a little encouragement the great majority are nearly as able to control their passions and emotions as are people in common life. Patients differ according to peculiar forms of the malady and their previous training, but in only a very few is the moral sense blotted out. It is when the means for assisting self-control have been delayed that the insane cendition progresses into dementia or imbecility. In most cases, periods of frenzy are succeeded by periods of comparative serenity, but a recollection of the frenzy remains. Then a kind guardian will arge the adoption of such a course as will prevent a return of the frenzy. Where the methods are made a study, and where carrying them out is the made a study, and where carrying them out is the business of life, the attainment is not difficult. But there is a class of patients quite the reverse. They may first be noticed in common fife, being mean, self-ish, hypocritical, and with little self-control, and the transition into insanty seems a natural one. Often they are not suspected to be insane until they commit some act which reveals their true condition, when they become frightful exaggerations of their former selves. In the Asylum they exhibit great mental activity, connected with incoherence and moral perversion, while they are subject to alternate conditions, neither of which is influenced by the will or any surrounding circumstances. Usually their case terminates in dementia. A universal characteristic of insanity is the consciousness of the patheir case terminates in dementia. A universal conracteristic of insanity is the consciousness of the patient that he himself exaggerates his condition. A natural treatment would be corporal punishment, and this was the treatment in the English machouses, but it was a total failure, because there was no investigation into the primary cause of this exaggeration. Civilization adds to the number of the causes of

no investigation into the primary cause of this exaggeration.

Civilization adds to the number of the causes of insanity, but the prospect is not alarming, for unless there are changes civilization cannot be perpetuated. There is an increase of insanity among the common people, because having inherited mental activity they are without cultivation to guide it. There is an increase of insanity among educated people, because having inherited muscular and nervous activity they are without physical culture to support it. In both cases the brain becomes weak. Mentality increases as civilization progresses, but it can be sustained in no other way than by uniting labor and mental culture. Another well-established cause is in forcing children to engage in studies beyond their capacity, for, at the best, the brain is weakened and it never can acquire full strength. To another cause, which has been so often named that it is not necessary to repeat it, another is now added, and it is indicated by the decrease in population in those places where culture, wealth, and fashion suggest and furnish the means for avoiding responsibility. Insanity is marked by unmistakable symptoms, among which are lines of livid, purple, and white along the lips, a peculiar condition of the pupil of the eye, and when accompanied with epilepsy, by the color of the hands. These symptoms are so marked that feigned insanity can be easily detected. Still, while the dividing line is a decided one, it is like the line of a river on a map which sends affinents into the territory upon each side.

Recently, new facts, with reference to insanity, have been discovered by means of microscopic examinations of the brain, and the cells of this organ, wholly invisible to the unaided eye, have been photographed. It seems that these cells become filled with congested blood, and to the extent that this is the case there is corresponding dementia. Thus far, all testimony is unanimous that insanity has its origin in bodily disease, and not in the mind itself, and it i and a self-acting nature; nor is it a chemical product of the brain, nor of any of its functions; hence, except in appearance, the mind never can become insane. We conclude, then, that after the stars shall have faded, the sun grown dim, and even nature has sunk, burdened with years, the mind will flourish in importal youth. immortal youth.

THE RELIC OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN. To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In to-day's issue you reprint a letter of Franklin's, from The Chicago Ecening Journal, which it is claimed now first meets the public eye. The letter is is claimed now first meets the public eye. The letter is a characteristic one, and not easily forgotten if once read with attention. I read this letter more than ten years ago, in a London edition of the "Life and works of Dr. Benjamin Franklin," of the date of 1825. The book was then mine, but has since passed from my possession, and I have no doubt but some of our public libraries contain a copy of that edition. I write you this note to prevent a deception by the Chicago people upon the readers of The Tarburg; and because, if left uncontradicted, the stund attempt may so the rounds of contradicted, the stupid attempt may go the rounds of the press, presenting evidence of our want of acquaint-ance with all the memorials of our great philosopher. New York, Feb. 11, 1860. DANL, R. LYDDY.

GOVERNMENT BONDS FOR PACIFIC RAILROADS. To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: As it is your business to know all facts, you are aware, of course, that the Government bonds issued for Pacific Railroads do not go into the roads except for so much of the avails as the corporators think necessary; the rest is divided among them as current, profile. You have perhaps somewhere sliuded to this, but if it has solescaped my notice. Yours, respectfully, New Haten, Conn., Feb. 9, 1869.

Sin: During a year's experience in missionary labors among the colored poor of this city, I have gathered some interesting facts in relation to their condition and needs, not understood by the benevolent public; and I have been requested by some of my co-workers, to prepare a statement of these facts for your journal, and solicit you to lay them before your readers.

Beside the ordinary causes of poverty and suffering which they share in common with others, there are other causes which affect them exclusively. Pirst: The condition of slavery in which they or their

parents were held, and when freed, left penniless. Many

those emancipated in this State 40

ago, laboring under the disadvantage of without trades, business, or capital, and compelled to meet the rivalry of an overwhelming foreign element in the labor market, have been unable to secure stendy employment by which to raise themselves or families above extreme poverty, and when sickness or reverses come they suffer for the necessaries of life. Again, they are shut out by prejudice from the privilege, in common with others, of learning trades, and thus to secure remunerative employment, except very recently. In a few individual cases females have been taken to learn, and afterward been employed. This same prejudice excludes them from the employ of many firms and fam-ilies, because mixed help will disagree, and This dominant foreign element prevails. fact keeps hundreds of them wholly dependent on "catch jobs" the year (around, by which means they can barely earn enough to keep soul and body togetherespecially where there are several children too small to earn a living (I will not say too small to work, for these little ones are taught to work from four years old and upward, and many a girl or boy will exhibit a judgment and propriety in doing housework, at eight or nine years of age, which would put to blush the awkwardness of a greenhorn at 20 or 25), and then, when work stops, or sickness comes, they all suffer together. Nothing coming in to pay rent, they are ordered out by "the agent," go in with some acquaintance (I have seen three families thus crowded into one room), or take a bed-room of some poor neighbor, some six feet by 10 or 13, for a family of four to seven persons. They will have one imeal per day or two-pawn the last dress, coat, or pair of shoes, to pay the rent of that little room, lest they all be turned out together, with no shelter from the cold or storm.

Others there are, who have lived as servants where they had good living, and when work is good, they foolishly think-having never learned better-that as they corr their money, and have a right to spend it as they please, that they can live as well as when in the rich man's house-indulge in good living till work stops, and then they are in want. Some who visit the poor to relieve want, and know this to be true of a given family, are disposed to withhold relief and sympathy on account of this improvidence, while, perhaps, they visit a certain class of foreigners, who spend all they get for liquor, and live in filth and squaler, are met fwith vivid descriptions of their sufferings and clamorous demands, or pathetic ap-peats for relief; their sympathies are moved, and help is cheerfully given, while the sober, tidy colored American woman is left to suffer the consequences of her improvi-dence. Again, our public charities do not meet the wants of this people as they do those of others. This is a fact which some will deny, others explain away, and others charge upon the colored people themselves. But as I am not preferring charges, or courting fruitless controversy, I will waive particulars and give general facts.

The out-door poor are expected to share with the whites in the provision made for this class, but their the labor market, and the hardships, and the cruel, merciless rivalry they often experience, induce them to suf fer almost anything before exposing themselves to it

again, and they are a most uncomplaining people.

For the benefit of the sick and paupers, there is the Colored Home in Sixty-fifth-st.; but, according to their last annual report, the means at their disposal is so far below the demand, that they cannot provide as they ought for those under their care.

In the missionary department they fare somewhat better, for they are visited equally by the missionaries, and receive sympathy and consideration from them; but the small assistance which they can give for temporal wants is nothing to be counted on generally.

In the prosecution of our labors, we have found several

classes of sufferers for whose relief no provision is made. The first is the aged, who have some support, but cannot get places to board where they can be comfortable. Another class is small children, whose mothers go out to service, and put them to board, where they suffer terribly from neglect. Yet another, and more helpless class, is " the innocents," whose mothers go out by the day, and leave them with a neighbor, or another child of tender years, by which means they experience indescribable sufferings, for the want of proper care.

Another crying want of this people is a temporary shelter for respectable females, who are sometimes out of employment, and who could often pay some hoard.

The causes of the difficulty in procuring board for the

woman who is poor enough to take a boarder at a low price, and is seber and cleanly, is compelled to go out to work, which work she could not give up for such a boarder, and when she has no work has nothing on which to board one. And those who are at home enough to take such a boarder are generally dissipated, and live in wretched quarters and horrid localities, unfit for the home of any decent human being.

Another want of these poor is a free intelligence office

where their cases would meet with prompt attention and consideration.

But, above all, they need mission rooms for their special benefit. It is true some of them attend the ward missions; but nine out of ten of these poor have not a decent garment in which to go, and stay at home the year round from the public means of grace. All the temporal wants above named could be met, with good management, under one roof, where religious meetings could also be held; and, when once put in operation, with a small annual outlay. A moderate-sized house and lot in a good locality can now be bought for \$10,000 or \$13,000 which would answer our purpose very well at present.

Are there not some of God's faithful stewards who have a surplus of last year's income which they would be willing to invest safely in this property, and give us the use of it, at least for a time, to enable us to relieve the sufferings of these helpless ones? Who will lend us a hand in this work of faith and labor of love!

MELINDA J. ROUNDS, Missionary, No. 269 Spring-st.

THE NAVY MEDICAL SERVICE.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sin: Although your editorial on "Quarter-Deck Privileges" was true as to the whole spirit of opposition to the improvement of the medical corps, it was partly in error as to the single fact that medical officers are excluded from the privileges of the quarter-deck There is a portion of the quarter-deck reserved for the officers doing the duty of the ship, and from this all offi-

are excluded from the privileges of the quarter-deck There is a portion of the quarter-deck reserved for the officers doing the duty of the ship, and from this all officers are, properly, excluded, and sometimes arbitrary commanders have made this exclusion more general and offensive than necessary. The older line officers of rank generally do not hold themselves superior to social and friendly relations with their medical brethren; on the contrary, between those who have long known each other's service, there are relations of confiding friendship and of sympathy with the medical corps, in its efforts to benefit the service, and these gentlemen have the respect of the medical corps, and of the medical profession at large. The opposition to improvement, the whole worry and annoyance to the naval service, comes chiefly from those who are new to their own rank, exait its nature, and mistake its purpose—are not sure of its reality unless they can humiliate some one unaccessarily. These are the persons who, for argument against principle, substitute vulgar and contemptions expressions against individuals and professions. Against such the medical officer meeds the protection of rank.

What are practically the influences which drive medical men from the navy! They can be told in few words. The annoyances of shipboard fire are very great, but they are shared by all. The line officer, as he progresses and advances in years, has them diminished by better apartiment, and more equal associates; progressive titles certify his progressive service. To the medical officer there is no change of place. The same crowded apariment he occupies as an assistant surgeon he still occupies after 50 years service, and is doing the responsible duty of Fiect Surgeon, still living with those whose youthful his progressive service. To the medical officer better alphabent accommodations, and association more congenial to his years, will fail of remediying existing ovia: and helphon account of the medical officer reaches the great or an existe

By Mr. Creamer-To incorporate the mem- | conveniented

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

OUR COLORED POOR.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: During a year's experience in mission—

Sir: During the Winter of 1866-67, and who are doing duties at the gentlement of the line of corresponding age and service, and who are doing duties at the gentlement of the line of corresponding age and service, and who are doing duties at the gentlement of the line of corresponding age and service, and who are doing duties at the gentlement of the line of corresponding age and service, and who are doing duties at the gentlement of the line of corresponding age and service, and who are doing duties at the line of corresponding age and service, and who are doing duties at the line of corresponding age and service, and who are doing duties at the line of corresponding age and service, and who are doing duties at the line of corresponding age and service, and who are doing duties at the line of corresponding age and service, and who are doing duties at the line of corresponding age and service, and who are doing duties at the line of corresponding age and service, and who are doing duties at the line of corresponding age and service, and who are doing duties at the line of corresponding age and service, and who are doing duties at the line of corresponding age and service, and who are doing duties at the line of corresponding age an

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: My attention has been called to the reply of 'Neptune," in Wednesday's TRIBUNE, to your editorial on "Quarter Deck Privileges." The assumption of "Nepon "Quarter Deck Privileges." The assumption of "Neptune" that line officers are in themselves competent to perform all the duties of their associates of the staff, referred to as useless and supernumerar; officers, is discreditable to any officer of the navy. It would seem that a surgeon who has completed a full course of professional training, as complete in their as any enjoyed by line officers, might be the equal, and not the "subordinate." of any officer of his grade in the service. It is gratifying to know that if chapiains of the navy are to be dismissed, as "Neptune" proposes, their ministerial duties can be well performed by officers of the line. We are told that the latter are equal to any emergency, but I think the change proposed involves a preparatory work of grace such as we have not known in modern times, outside of Water-st., or since the days of the Apostles. Apostles. New-York, Jan. 30, 1869.

THE MYSTERIOUS MURDER.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: It is the common cant of the day to apply this phrase to the death of Mr. Rogers. Is it just Is it proper? Is it not a great misnomer of the act! Let us examine. At about 7 o'clock on the morning of December 31, one of the shortest days in the year (the sun not rising until 7:24), and a heavy cloud at the time necessari ly making more dark the obscurity of night, Mr. Rogers appears alone in front of his house, engaged in clearing away the snow. He has the appearance of approaching age; is well dressed; and has a glittering watch-chain prominently conspicuous on his person, which sparkled in the gloom. Two night hawks—after an all-night's search for body without success, or returning from an all-night carousal, or from the arms of unlawful love, or having been turned out of a station-house, where they had been permitted to enjoy the luxury of a warm fire and a deal board until about this hour—have started out to beg or steal a breakfast; and having, also, passed the guardian of the night, and left behind the only living being at all likely to be on the street in such weather and at such an hour, they are attracted by the bright glitter of the watch-chain; and one of them, stripping himself for the encounter, rushed on the unarmed old man to secure the prize. The old man resists the attack, and fends off with all his skill and power the knife that is brandished in his encounter. The old man resists the attack, and fends off with all his skill and power the knife that is brandished in his face; and finding that his valuables have been taken, he sezes that part of the thief's coat where he saw them placed, and in the struggle that then ensued (he for the possession of the coat pocket and the thief to get away) the fatal cut is given. From all this it may be seen that the thief exhibited the knife only for intimidiation, but the thief exhibited the knife only for intimidiation, but the thief exhibited the knife only for intimidiation, but the last way obstructed he used it to secure his escape. No noise was made sufficient to call to the window even the next-doer neighbors; and the thief, finding he had effectively used his knife, did not tarry to recover the besty lost, but hastily left the street to secure his safety, evidently as much alarmed as was Mr. Rogers himself. Now, this is the case as it occurred. What mystery is there in it? Is there a city in the world where every one of these incidents may not have taken place, at such a time before sunrise, in a dense, cloudy atmosphere, in weather as incidents as quelengt, and where people were not yet. of these incidents may not have, cloudy atmosphere, in time before sunrise, in a dense, cloudy atmosphere, in weather as inclement, and where people were not yet astir on the streetal. If there is such a city, let us know where it may be found, in order that its system of protec-tion may be adopted by our Metropolitan Police Commis-JUSTICE.

New York, February 11, 1869.

PUBLIC LANDS. To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir : I have long felt a desire to say a word to the readers of THE TRIBUNE, as a representative of the common people, on the abuses of the present public land Now that a disposition is evinced, on the part of our Legislators, to reform some of those abuses, we "hear them gladly," and will warmly second their efforts. The policy of giving away the public lands was, as all recollect, adopted to encourage their settlement, and furnish homes for the poor of the over-populous districts; but the lightletons, not to say criminal, legislation which has been connected with this policy, has defeated the object of the proposed reform. From the Commissioner of the General Land Office down to all lesser edicials we have heard it iterated and referated that "the policy of deriving revenue from the public lands is shandoned." Why, gentlemen, was the policy abandened? Not to discourage settlement by whichrawing millions of acres from market; not to build up a few colossal fortunes at the expense of the tothing millions; not to fasten oppressive monopolies upon the people, and then compel them to pay for its being done. But such have been the results of the legislation adopted. It is now much more difficult for a poor hear them gladly," and will warmly second their ands, donated, perhaps, years ago, to some railroad or dermal improvement company, which have never been epiled to the object estembly intended, and never will all found mention abuses of this kind almost without of. They have almost ceased, from their frequency, to e subjects of remark. In many cases a second graut of and has been made to a company, to pay it for not ful-ling what it contracted to do for the first. Then there the iswamp Land grant—a frond throughout. And what being done with the agricultural college lands i While is being done with the agreement context and a some States are endowing colleges in good faith, other are distributing the fund to this seminary, that college and the other normal school, where the course of stud bears the same relation to agriculture that a pastor; peem does to stock raising.

J. P. C. Oconomorco, Mich., Jun. 27, 1862.

HENRY WARD BEECHER AND THE "D-D

denies, in the most unequivocal terms, the story of his once beginning a sermon with the expression, "It's d-d hot." At the same time, however, he mentions as a curious circumstance that two persons of his acquaintance-in one of whom, a member of his own family, he has the most implicit confidence—have stated that they heard him at the time make use of the above

that they heard him at the time make use of the above expression.

The question is certainly most singular; nor does it lose in interest by the fact that one gentleman of my acquaintance, a member and communicant of Mr. Beecher's Church, has in the most positive manner assured me that he himself heard Mr. Beecher begin one of his discourses with the words, "It's a d—d hot day."

Mr. Beecher's cousin also—a distinguished inputsit clergy man, bearing the same bame, and formerly residing at baratoga Springs—has told me the same story as a veritable fact.

Baratoga Springs—has told me the same story as a veritable fact.

Now, while Mr. Beccher's word must of course be believed, per contra it is equally impossible to disbelieve the statement of ny friend, who is a person of unquestionable veracity. And yet which is the most probable: that a number of persons should remember what never imppened, or that a single person should entirely forget what actually did happen? Can it be possible that Mr. Beccher is a somnambulist, and sometimes preaches while in a semi-meamoric state? Such a theory at all events would solve the mystery, by showing that both parties, like the two travelers who disputed ever the shield, are right. Seriously, however, the question is an interesting one, and might form the basis of a curious psychological discussion.

Web Tork, Feb. 10, 1869.** New-York, Feb. 10, 1869.

EXPLOSIVE OILS.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Str: The proposal of the Board of Health to prohibit the sale of oils which will not stand a fire test of 1100 P., will fall to lessen the danger of explosions; inleed, will rather aggravate the present evils by reducing the price of light oils, and increasing the incentive to dis honest dealers to mix it with the higher priced article. The most dangerous petroleum oils to burn in lamps are, First: That known as kerosene, say of 110° fire test, mixed with naphtha. Second: Kerosene of 110°, or any other fire test, which contains fixed gases, produced by imperfect distillation, and which few distillers thoroughly understand. Why are the above the most dangerous! Bocause it requires a less amount of atmosphere, and of more varied proportions, to mix with its gases to make an explosion, or cause it to ignite. What we need is a law (not to prevent the sale of oils less than 110° fire test, which all laws would fail to taccomplish while naphtha sells at half the price, and produces a handsomer light with less objection), but to compel all oil dealers, under a heavy penalty, to exhibit prominently in their place of business a card setting forth the qualities, properties, inflammability, &c., of all the different grades of petroleum or other luminous oils, and to sell each kind for just what it is. If proper energy were shown in the enforcement of the law, it would soon become unprofitable to make these dangerous mixtures.

Brooklyn, Feb. I, 1809.

To the Editor of The Tribune. The most dangerous petroleum offs to burn in lamps are

To the Editor of The Tribune,

SIR: While riding last night on car No. 60, Eighth-ave., the kerosene lamp at one end of the car emitted a sudden flash of light and the passengers fled panic-stricken to the other end of the car. A sheet of panic-stricken to the other end of the car. A sheet of flame was discovered pouring from the top of the lamp chimney which threatened damage to the car. I then acized the lamp and threw it into the street, when the sudden flame that burst forth proved the fluid to consist in large part of benzine or gasoline. Had the same sceldent occurred in a dwelling the probabilities are that the inmates would have abandoned the house to conflagration or incurred danger to their own lives by rash and ignorant proceedings. Prof. Chandler has warned us of the danger to which we are exposed by the habit of villations dealers of mixing kerosene oil with benzine and gasoline. Let us have the most rigorous laws on this subject and then have them enforced.

S. E. DIVINE.

THE NEW SAILORS' HOME.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: By your Issue of to-day I see I am charged with turning three men out of my house, and the reason assigned in one case was that he would not give reason assigned in one case was that he would not give me a bonus of \$8. Now I will explain to you the reason why I resorted to this measure. For the past week those men had been trying to disturb the general quiet of the "Home," and as no situation that I could get for them would suit them, especially as they already owed me for four weeks board, I concluded not to keep them any longer. I would say that one of these three was in destitute eigenmentage, and it was from pity that I took him in. If men wont go to sea unless they get \$40 a month, and merchants only paying \$50, is that any reason why I should board them for aix or ten weeks free! As to the charge that I want a bonus of \$8 from any man I ship, I will say that I would only he too willing to give double that amount to get them so that I might receive what is justly due to me. I wish here to state that it is not the princtice of boarding house keepers to charge the men anything for shipping them, but a now of the ship masters do.

New York, Feb. 2, 1959

Citae, Blank.

During the Winter of 1866-67, and the following Summer, an exploring party belonging to the Russo American Telegraph Exploring Expedition, traveled many hundred miles in Alaska for the purpose of surveying a route for a telegraph line. On account of the success of the Atlantic Cable the enterprise was abandoned. One result of the expedition, however, comes to us in the shape of a volume of travels written by a young English artist who accompanied the explorers as a volunteer. His volume, which is profusely illustrated with wood cuts, and accompanied by an excellent map, contains much new information about Alaska. From its pages we extract an account of 'a sledge journey to the Yukon River-This river is the Mississippi of Alaska. Mr. Whymper calls it "one of the grandest streams on the North American Continent." The general course of the Yukon is from East to West; but having approached to a distance of less than 100 miles of Norton Sound (an arm of Behring's Sea), it takes a southerly sweep from latitude 65 to latitude 62 degrees, and then turning North-West, enters the Sound by means of an extensive delta. Mr. Whymper made a journey from Unalachleet, a Russian port on the coast, in latitude 64 degrees, overland to the river. The following account of a portion of our newly acquired Territory will, we think, be found entertaining:

count of a portion of our newly acquired Territory will, we think, be found entertaining:

The distance to that portion of the Yukon we were about to visit is, by the mouths of the river. 700 miles, but a land route to it is always employed in Winter by the Russians traveling from Norton Sound. By the latter route the distance from Unalachleet is approximately 170 miles.

Although our expedition was well fitted out in the absolute essentials of travel, no provision had been made with regard to either sledges or dogs, it having been very naturally supposed that the country itself was the best source from whence to obtain these. We found, however, that the dogs were neither plentiful not of a good class. They were hardly above the average of the sneaking, snarling Indian curs of Oregon and British Columbia, and it was very difficult to make them attached to you, a proof to my mind that they had as much of the wolf as the dog in them. I have always succeeded in making a good dog my friend, and was much chagrined at my want of success among these animals. They are very hairy, are of all colors, iton-gray predominating, have wolfish features and short legs, but their immerse bushy tails make up for all deficiencies. Taking them all in all, they did good service in transporting our goods, and with them all of us made many lengthened journeys.

On the morning of the 27th October, at 11 o'clock, we bade adien to our friends, some of whom persisted in accompanying us a little way on the frozen surface of the Unalachleet River, whilst the others honored us with a grand, but rather irregular volley of blank-cartridge from revolvers, muskets, and the old battered cannon of the Russian post. Our party comprised nune persons, as follows: Capt. Ketchum and Lieut. Labarge, his right-hand man. Mr. Dall, a collector for the Smithsonian Institute, myself, and Pickett, a man detailed for our service. Mr. Francis, engineer of our little steamer, started with us on an excursion trip, and three Indians completed our list. We took fou

very well laden with a miscellaneous collection of boxes, barrels, tools, furs, blankets, and snow-shoes. Each load averaged 350 pounds weight.

A few small accidents varied the day's travel, such as the bone runners of our sledges cracking off, or the dogs getting loose and making a break for the woods. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon we stopped for rest, raised a good fire of drift-wood on the surface of the ice, and then cooked our bacon and made some refreshing tea. We then resumed our trip by starlight, hoping to make the Indian village of Igtigalik the same evening. About 6 o'clock we came to a standstill; a great patch of the river was entirely open, nor could we see a way round. Attempting to creep round the shelving banks our sledges were half-buried in the soft snow, and as the night was very dark, and we did not wish to risk losing our loads in the river, we came to the conclusion that we must camp. We unloaded the sledges, tied up the dogs, cleared a space in the snow at the top of the bank, and raised a magnificent log fire. We spread a quantity of fir-brush on the ground, made up our beds en it, and slept closely packed together, with a large deer-skin robe covering us.

We had unfortunately relied on the next village for a supply of dog-feed. The Russian post we had just left was famous for "ukalee," an inferior kind of salmen dried for this purpose; but our men wintering there would, we knew, require so much of it that we had determined to obtain ours on the route.

of salmen dried for this purpose; but our men wintering there would, we knew, require so much of it
that we had determined to obtain ours on the route.
Our sledges, too, were otherwise filled to their utmost capacity. The poor dogs passed a hungry
night, howling dismally. We had to place everything eatable out of their reach, and as they did not
object to skin clothing or old boots, and would
readily devour their own harness, it was a somewhat difficult task.

28th—In the marning, we found that four of our

what difficult task.

28th.—In the morning we found that four of our dogs, disgusted and hungry, had deserted from our service, and we were sure that they had "made tracks" for the Russian post. We made an early start in the brisk cold morning (temp.—6° Fah.), and reached the village without any trouble, after we had passed round the edge of the open water just mentioned. There, however, the thin ice cracked beneath the weight of our sledges, and we "kept moving" expecting a ducking every moment. HOT DAY."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In The Ledger of last week Mr. Beecher

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On the right bank of the river we found a number

On the right bank of the river we found a humber of Indian Summer dwellings—simply wooden shanties, built above ground, with a small doorway, sometimes circular, and a hole in the roof to let out the smoke. Behind them on posts were the fish-houses, or "caches," as before described.

On the left bank were a few underground houses, the standard for Winter was a few underground houses, the standard for Winter was a few underground houses,

or "caches," as before described.

On the left bank were a few underground houses, intended for Winter use. These were simply square holes in the ground, roofed in, and earthed over. The entrance of each was always a rude shanty of leas or planks, passing into which we found a hole in the ground, the entrance to a subterranean passage. Into this we dropped, and crawled on our hands and knees into the room. "Amilka," the owner of one of these houses, put half his floor at our disposal, and we cleared it of dirt and incumbrances and spread our skins over it. A part of us stoiped there some days, studying the manners and customs of the people. Their manners might pass, but some of their customs were decidedly nasty. Igtigalik (known by the Russians as Nove, or New Ulakuk, to distinguish it from a neighboring place of a similar name) was inhabited by a totally different tribe from what we had met at Unalachleet, and called the Ingelete people. Although only 25 miles from the Malemute village, they speak an entirely different dialect, one—as we afterward discovered—nearly allied to the Co-Yukon. These people were a fine stout race, with fair intelligence, and generally appeared to be very good humored. Many of the men were above the average in stature, and their general appearance much resembled the coast natives. Polygamy exists, but not to any great extent, and occasionally a man discharges his wife and takes another, if the first proves burren, or disaptent, and occasionally a man discharges his wife and takes another, if the first proves barren, or disap-points with too many girls. Daughters are at a dis-Count.
Their houses at this time were full of baskets for

Their houses at this time were full of baskets for fish, traps, frames for snow-shoes, and parts of sledges in course of manufacture.

The passage-way into these houses was in wet. mild weather nothing but a sewer. The fire was built on the floor in the center of the chamber, and when it burnt low the embers and sticks were always thrown out of the smoke-hole in the roof by natives inside and it was then covered with a skin. This built on the floor in the center of the chamber, and when it burnt low the embers and sticks were always thrown out of the smoke-hole in the roof by natives inside, and it was then covered with a skin. This process effectually shut in all the warmtb, but with it a good deal of smoke and carbonio acid gas. The entrance hole was usually covered with a deer skin, and the mixture of close smells inside the house, arising from more or less state fish, meat, old skin clothes, young dogs, dirt and smoke, was very sickening. The dogs scrambling and fighting on the roof above, sometimes tumbled through the smokehole on the fire below, upsetting all the cooking arrangements, and adding a new smell to those above mentioned—that of singed hair! It need not be said that they retreated with great alacrity, yelping and snarling as they went.

In place of song these people use for cleansing purposes the liquid before mentioned as adopted by the Malemutes. The little children are plump and good tempered, suck a stick of ice as though it were barley sugar, and are totally unacquainted with the use of the pocket handkerchief. They seemed to be cowardly. If a strapping youngster tumbled down, and bruised or scratched himself, the women gathered round, gesticulating, and making a great fuss. If a few drops of blood appeared, they hid their eyes in their hands, as though it were something too terrible to behold.

Both men and women smoke: the latter, however, do so only on occasions. Many, like the Malemutes, and Tchuktchis, swallow the smoke, and their pipebowls only hold a pinch of tobacco. They also use snuff, rubbing up the Russian leaf-tobacco in a kind of wooden pestle and mortar. This is simply a circular cup, roughly cut out from a knot of wood, and is held in the left hand, while the right grasps a stout round stick, the top of which is weighted with a stone. They have small oval-shaped wooden or bone snuff-boxes, and snuff the powdered tobacco into their nostrils through a small wooden tube.

At this, and other ingelete vi

flour.

On the 6th we made a start, taking two sledges, an Indian man, and a boy; the latter we named "Tommy." We "cached" our skin-boat; it was to be brought up for us at a later period. The day was pleasant—temperature 23° Fahr; but the snow was fresh and soft, and all of our party were snow-shoes. After a little use, I became quite proficient. The

· Travels is Alasks and on the Yakon. Frederick Whymper. London, John Marray.

only secret in wearing them is to strive to forget you have them on at all, and to walk exactly as you would anywhere else. The snow-shoe then moves forward with the foot, but it is not lifted much above the snow, and the lashings are so arranged that the toe remains fixed, while the rest of the foot haves in and down in the usual manner. Of course, the great object in using them is to diffuse your whole weight over a large surface, and they are usually of a good length, sometimes five and a half feet long and upward. An average length is four and a half feet. All used in this part of the country are rounded and bent upward in front, and pointed behing. They are made of birch-wood, covered at either and with a fine network of gut; the lashings for the loot are strips of hide.

We trayeled N. N. E. magnetic, and followed pretty closely the base of the Ulukuk Mountains, which in themselves are hills of inconsiderable altitude, not usually exceeding 3,000 feet in hight; they are, however, conspicuous landmarks in a country which is otherwise Comparatively level. These mountains run north and south for 100 miles. One of their outlying hills, the "Versola Sofka" has a very graceful rounded four. To the west were hills and mountains of apparently greater altitude.

We left the "Versola Sofka" on the morning of the 7th, and, finding the loads too great for our dogs under the circumstances, we raised an erection of poles, and deposited some bags thereon. I may here say, once for all, that our men often left goods, consisting of tea, flour, molasses, bacon, and all kinds of miscellaneous items—scattered in this way over the country, and that they remained untouched by the Indians, who frequently traveled past them. It would require some faith in one's species to do the same in St. James's Park! This day's travel was especially troublesome, the snow was deeper and softer than before some little having recently fallen, and our sledges were perpetually unsecting.

would require some latts in one's species to do the same in St. James's Park! This day's travel was especially troublesome, the snow was deeper and softer than before, some little having recently fallen, and our sledges were perpetually apsetting. In order to make a track for our dogs, we frequently with the Indian, walked on a-head, returned, and again started forward, thus going over the ground three times. At night, after crossing a stream still open, we came to a small and very dilapidated Indian shanty, not much better than an open camp, known by the Russians as "I vams's barabia" (house) It was a very wretched place, and we found it temporarily occupied by an Indian, with wife and child, whose apparent possessions no beggar could covet. Yet they appeared happy; for did they not know that en the morrow the hares and ptarmigan could be snared, the deer hunted with a little more exertion, and that if they were positively "hard up" they could get all they wanted for subsistence at the nearest villaged. A little tobacco and a few trifles were given them, and from them we obtained a light sledge, standing no more than 15 inches above the ground, to be used by us for transporting our blankets and light possessions.

We first acquaintance with the Yukon, in common

My first acquaintance with the Yukon, in comme My first acquaintance with the Yukon, in common with several of my companions, was made sliding down the bank at the rate of "2.40" (to use an Americanism), comfortably seated on my snow-shoes. At such snow-banks it is a very common thing for the sledge to shoot down faster than the dogs, who then get entangled in their harness, run over, and mashed in the snow. They frequently break loose at such times. The driver often throws himself down, and hangs on to the sledge to act as a drag. In Siberia, as I learnt from my friends who had wintered there, it is usual for the driver of a sledge, when riding on it, to have a pole or stake which he uses to impede its progress, driving it down into the snow every few seconds.

on it. to have a piece of a control of the specific speci

mouth, wagging about in the most uncertain and eccentric manner, was a pitiable object; but we made his ancient heart rejoice by presenting him with cotton-drill, powder, and balls. Our teams, passing ast repassing, would have to halt at this village constantly during Winter. In "Stareck's" house several of the Indians slept on shelves or benches built round the walls, and by this means four or five families were packed into one room. When camped at these places, after taking our own meals, we invariably filled up the tea-kettle, and handed round to each of those natives who had done us any service, a cup of weak tea with a little broken biscuit floating on the top of it. Some of them have acquired from the Russians a taste for tea, but more especially for sugar. As these things were not articles of trade at the Russian Fur Company's posts, they rarely got a taste of either, nor do I believe that tea, per se, was much cared for by them, but that they simply liked it when hot and sweet.

We started up the Yukon on the 14th. An occasional patch of open water, running perhaps at the rate of three knots an bour, alone showed as that it was a river at all, and the dreary expanse of snow almost made us forget that we were on a sheet of the contract of the considerably, and our course

almost made us forget that we were on a sheet of ice. The river winds considerably, and our course was eften therefore frem one point of land to another. We several times crossed from bank to bank to ent off corners and bonds, and, although we met with some obstructions from masses of ice of all forms and shapes piled wildly and irregularly around, traveling was on the whole immeasurably easier than on the land portage. Many cliffs abutted on the river, and islands of somber green forest studded it in all directions. We made about 25 miles, then camped in a new but empty Indian house, known by the Russians as "Alikoff's barabba." The temperature at sunset was 20 Fahr.

On the morning of the 15th we rose early, and,

temperature at sunset was 2° Fahr.

On the morning of the 15th we rose early, and, after traveling seven miles or so, met a large train of sledges accompanied by several Russians and ladians. They had been sent down by the head man, or "bidarshik" of Nulato, to transport their own Winter supplies, and to assist us. As it was arranged that some of our men should make the return journey to Norton Sound, a few days later, the Russians turned round, and went back with us. After about eight miles' travel we reached Nulato, our destination, and made a grand entry with much noise and fan, and the firing of innumerable discharges. All hands helped the sledges up the incline leading up to the station, and a few minutes later we were lunching at the "bidarshik's" table on raw salt-fish and bread. It need not be said that the "samovar" had been prepared as soon as they sighted us in the distance. The poorest Russian never neglects the sacred rite of hospitality, and we pledged each other in massive cops of strong tea. Later in the day we had something stronger.

Nulato is the most inland, and also most northers.

Nulato is the most inland, and also most northers Nulato is the most inland, and also most northern of all the Russian Fur Company's posts; on Zagoskin's authority it is in lat. 64° 42′ 11″ N., and long. 157° 58′ 18″ W. (of Greenwich). It is on the north bank of the Yukon, and is situated on a flat stretch of comparatively open land, bounded on the southwest by the Nulato River, a tributary of the Yukon—a stream one of whose mouths is at least 70 yards in width.

Our supply of water was obtained from a hole kept constantly open—or as open as nature would allow it to be—through the ice of the Yukon, at a distance of a quarter of a mile from the post. The "wist-sledge" was one of the institutions of the place, and a large barrel was taken down and filled with water

a large barrel was taken down and filled with water — and a good deal of broken ice—and brought back for the supply of the station. It was generally dragged by men, and sometimes by Indian women, as it would have taken more dogs than the place possessed

would have taken more dogs than the place possessed to move it.

In November and December I succeeded in making sketches of the fort and neighborhood at times when the temperature was as low as 30 degrees below zero. It was done, it need not be said, with difficulty, and often by installments. Between every five strokes of the pencil, I ran about to exercise myself, or went into our quarters for warmth. Several times I skinned my fingers, once froze my left ear, which swelled up nearly to the top of my head, and I was always afraid that my prominent nasal organ would get bitten.

The effect of intense cold on our stores in the magazine was a very interesting study; our dried apples are the stores.

The effect of intense cold on our stores in the marazine was a very interesting study; our dried apples were a mass of rock, and had to be smashed up with an ax, our molasses formed a thick, black puste, and no knife we had would cut a slice of ham from the bone, till it was well thawed in our warmer room. Our preserved meats, would, with a continution of those times, have been preserved for ever, and would have made, as Kane says, excellent "canister shot." After purchasing grouse or hares from the ladians, they would remain, uneaten, for a month or longer period, in as good condition as ever, and there was no fear of their getting too "high" in that directions.

was no fear of their getting too "high" in that dimate.

Our coldest day for the whole season occurred in December. On the 26th of November the thermonster fell suddenly from the comparatively moderate temperature of 2° to 18°, and continued lowering steadily—day by day—till it reached (on the 5th of December) 58° Fahr., or 90 degrees below freeing. But the weather was lovely; no wind blew er snow fell during the whole time, and we did not feel the cold as much as at many other times. Meantime the barometer rose rapidly, and stood at slightly above 30 inches on our coldest day.

On the 7th of the same month, the barometer fell considerably, the thermometer rose to 24° and later 16°, when snow fell thickly. The spirit thermometer used by myself (although by a San Francisco maker) agreed perfectly with a standard mercurial thermometer supplied by the Smithsonian Institute, as far down as 40° (below which, as the reader doubtless knows, a mercurial instrument is of no further

less knows, a mercurial instrument is of no further value); other thermometers showed a much lower temperature; one, in the hands of an explorer, then traveling up to Nulato, showed on the 5th a temperature of 68°, but this was not a reliable instrument.